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Report on the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and on resolution 53/115 of the General Assembly

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem. It covers the action plans and measures adopted and presents the activities already undertaken, as well as those envisaged, by UNDCP to meet the new mandates that the General Assembly has vested in the United Nations in the field of drug control.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 53/115, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the outcome of its twentieth special session and of resolution 53/115. The present document has been prepared in response to that request.

II. Revised medium-term plan for international drug control, 1998–2001

2. The twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, held in New York from 8 to 10 June 1998, represented a major landmark in international efforts to achieve a drug-free world. It formulated a global strategy based on a balanced approach, with demand reduction and supply reduction as mutually reinforcing elements. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) is engaged in the follow-up work. The new commitments undertaken by Governments have expanded the mandates and responsibilities entrusted to UNDCP, which are reflected in the approved revised medium-term plan for international drug control for 1998–2001. Successful implementation of the budgetary implications is essential if the international community is to take advantage of the opportunity provided by the special session.

III. Designation of the twentieth special session as a major global conference

3. The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) decided to designate the twentieth special session of the General Assembly as a major United Nations conference, citing drug control as a major cross-cutting priority for the United Nations system. Monitoring the implementation of the follow-up to the special session will thus become part of the United Nations review of the follow-up to major conferences by ACC and its subsidiary machinery and will be included in the intergovernmental coordination and follow-up processes. This will provide additional support to the implementation of the action plans and measures adopted at the twentieth special session to further international cooperation on drug control. This approach is also spelled out in draft resolution I adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-second session for the approval of the Council, entitled: "Review of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme: strengthening the United Nations machinery for international drug control within the scope of the existing international drug control treaties and in accordance with the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations".[1] By that resolution the Council would recommend that member States report on the implementation of measures arising from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, in line with the Political Declaration adopted at that session.[2] In that regard they should consider the world drug problem to be a cross-cutting issue in the context of the integrated and coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summit meetings.

IV. Action plan for the implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction

4. The General Assembly at its twentieth special session adopted the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,[3] highlighting the importance of demand reduction as an indispensable pillar in countering the world drug problem. UNDCP is supporting Governments in developing action-oriented demand reduction programmes, in keeping with their commitments to have new and enhanced strategies in place by 2003 and to achieve measurable results by 2008.

5. In its resolution 53/115, section II, the General Assembly requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to examine, at its forty-second session, the proposal for an action plan for the implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, which was being elaborated by UNDCP in consultation with Member States, taking into account the international agreements and declarations in the area of demand reduction that had been elaborated, in particular the Global Programme of Action,[4] and addressing all policies and programmes to all sectors of society. In December 1998 and March 1999, UNDCP convened two meetings of a high-level intergovernmental working group to elaborate an action plan for the implementation of the Declaration. At its forty-second session the Commission considered the report of the intergovernmental working group and formulated the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the

Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, which is contained in the draft resolution which it transmitted,[1] through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly for adoption at its fifty-fourth session.

6. An important precondition for achieving the targets adopted at the twentieth special session is that Governments have reliable information on the nature of, and patterns and trends in, drug abuse. To achieve that objective, UNDCP launched a new initiative to assist Governments in establishing an epidemiological infrastructure, through training and scientific advice provided by a regional network of epidemiological advisers and research institutes. The objective is to ensure that demand reduction programmes are based on a regular assessment of the nature and magnitude of drug abuse and related problems, in order to develop a database that includes best practices in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. To contribute to the effort, UNDCP published guidelines on the development and implementation of rapid situation assessment of drug abuse and responses thereto, field-tested in more than 12 countries worldwide.

7. In resolution 53/115, section II, the Assembly took note with satisfaction of the active participation of youth organizations and youth during the special session, and stressed the importance of their continuing to contribute their experiences and to participate in the decision-making processes, in particular in relation to the elaboration of the action plan for the implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. UNDCP built on the commitment of young people for a drug-free society at the third World Youth Forum of the United Nations system, held in Braga, Portugal, from 2 to 7 August 1998, and the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, held at Lisbon from 8 to 12 August 1998. In the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, adopted at the Conference, Governments pledged to raise awareness of drug abuse by working in partnership with young people and mobilizing communities to adopt healthy lifestyles.

V. Elimination of illicit cultivation of the opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis through alternative development

8. At its twentieth special session, in resolution S-20/4 E, entitled "Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development", the General Assembly made an historical commitment to eliminate or significantly reduce illicit cultivation of the opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis by the year 2008. UNDCP is playing a catalytic role in providing the strategy for achieving this goal, in close cooperation with national and international partners and international financial institutions engaged in poverty eradication, health and education to improve the overall quality of life in areas affected by illicit cultivation of narcotic crops, thereby reducing incentives for the cultivation of illicit crops.

9. In its resolution 53/115, section II, the Assembly requested the Executive Director of UNDCP to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-second session, on the follow-up to the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development. A report of the Executive Director on that subject (E/CN.7/1999/3) was before the Commission in March 1999.

10. To support Governments in meeting the goals of the Action Plan, UNDCP initiated a process of formulating national "business plans", in consultation with interested Governments, based on the field experience acquired during the past decade in the eradication of illicit crops and alternative development in the Andean region and in South-East and South-West Asia. As a direct follow-up to the Action Plan, UNDCP prepared, with the Governments of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru, business plans, conceived as programming tools for the implementation of national strategies to reduce significantly or eliminate illicit cultivation of drug crops through alternative development within a specified time-frame. Similar alternative development programmes for Afghanistan, Myanmar, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Viet Nam were at various stages of elaboration.

11. The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) offered invaluable support to the Government of Peru by providing loans for roads, energy and related infrastructure works which are essential for effective and sustainable alternative development projects. A consultative group meeting in Peru, in support of drug control, was held in Brussels in November 1998, organized in collaboration with UNDCP, the European Commission, IDB, and the Organization of American States. A similar event, to include the same sponsors, plus Spain and the World Bank, will be held in June 1999 in Paris to support the business plan for the Government of Bolivia. The business plan for Colombia stresses the need for close interaction between alternative development and the peace process.

12. In October 1998, UNDCP initiated the process of developing a programme framework for cooperation in drug control in South-East Asia, covering the region of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The regional approach is governed by the Action Plan and the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, and takes into account the goals of national plans and strategies. The strategy for South-East Asia, covering Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, the ASEAN secretariat and the Asian Development Bank, aims at a 40 per cent reduction in the illicit production of dry opium, provided that the conditions and donor support exist to implement expanded alternative development programmes in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar.

13. The UNDCP strategy for the region of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) (including Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) provides an efficient and cost-effective framework for UNDCP activities, both inside Afghanistan and in neighbouring countries. The programme framework covers the first five years (from 1999 to 2003) of the Action Plan and envisages a 30 per cent reduction in illicit cultivation of dry opium, provided that conditions and donor support exist to implement alternative development initiatives under the common programme in Afghanistan. The common programming process for Afghanistan provides an opportunity for UNDCP to insert the drug dimension as a shared principle into programmes of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations and into bilateral programmes when they start operating in Afghanistan. In Pakistan, UNDCP supported the Government's enforcement of the poppy ban which led to the destruction of 125 hectares of opium poppy in May 1998, out of an estimated 500 hectares under cultivation. UNDCP embarked upon the preparation of a strategy for the consolidation phase which envisages further assistance from other agencies, once poppy production is eliminated in the Dir district.

14. At its twentieth special session, the Assembly called on Member States to design monitoring and verification mechanisms for illicit cultivation and to collaborate and exchange information with UNDCP and other Governments. UNDCP has started to conduct assessments and analyses to provide Governments with an independent, neutral and objective source of information for measuring the extent of illicit cultivation and for monitoring efforts to ensure its reduction and eventual elimination. UNDCP has prepared a programme for the establishment of a global monitoring system to support States, at their request, in measuring the extent of illicit cultivation, using appropriate survey methodologies, combining ground and aerial surveys and satellite monitoring. To that effect UNDCP signed an agreement with the European Space Agency (ESA) in April 1999, defining the main features of a cooperation agreement under which ESA would provide its expertise and technical capacity to UNDCP for the development of the methodology. In November 1998, UNDCP initiated a support project for the establishment of a small programme development team to be responsible for the development of survey methodologies, to participate in country-level needs assessment missions, and to contribute to the formulation of technical assistance projects.

15. At its forty-second session the Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted resolution 42/3, entitled: "Monitoring and verification of illicit cultivation", endorsing the strategy of UNDCP. In that resolution the Commission requested, *inter alia*, that UNDCP collaborate with Governments, through an agreement setting out guidelines for the collection and dissemination of information, and with relevant governmental, intergovernmental, regional and technical organizations in establishing an international network for monitoring the cultivation of illicit crops. UNDCP was also requested, within the limits of available resources, to establish a central data bank and information system on the basis of information furnished by Governments on the cultivation of illicit crops and to report annually to the Commission on the current world situation regarding illicit crops and on the impact of strategies developed by Governments for their elimination and substitution. Finally, UNDCP was requested to provide requesting Governments with the technical assistance that they required and to take steps to mobilize international logistical and financial support with a view to establishing national mechanisms for monitoring and verifying the cultivation of illicit crops used in the production of drugs and developing an international network for the control of illicit cultivation for the purpose of implementing the Action Plan.

VI. Measures to promote judicial cooperation

16. The measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, in resolutions S-20/4 A–E, focus on the action that States should take fully to implement the Convention against Illicit Traffic in

Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1998[5] and to promote judicial cooperation, which complements and extends the cooperation envisaged in that Convention. States were encouraged to review and, where appropriate, to strengthen by the year 2003 the implementation of the measures to promote judicial cooperation outlined in resolution S-20/4 C, which included extradition, mutual legal assistance and the transfer of proceedings.

17. UNDCP, through its legal advisory programme, assisted Governments in the adoption and implementation of legislation to give effect to the provisions of the international drug control treaties, particularly the provisions of the 1988 Convention on mutual legal assistance, extradition, transfer of proceedings, and related treaty provisions. UNDCP is assisting States in implementing the recommendations that call upon States to foster an exchange of information on their laws, practices and procedures among their judicial and law enforcement authorities. Training and technical cooperation for judicial, prosecutorial and law enforcement personnel supported or conducted by UNDCP has enhanced the expertise and capacity of Governments, resulting in the arrest, prosecution and conviction of drug traffickers.

VII. Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and their Precursors

18. In General Assembly resolution S-20/4 A, entitled "Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and their Precursors", it is stated that the subject of amphetamine-type stimulants should be given higher priority and should become a regular item on the agenda of the Commission. States should disseminate information on actions taken in fulfilment of the Action Plan and report on them to the Commission, which, in turn, should review and appraise implementation of the Action Plan at the national, regional and international levels.

19. The Assembly called for the establishment or strengthening by the year 2003 of national legislation and programmes giving effect to the Action Plan. To that effect UNDCP enhanced its efforts to support Member States, the Commission, and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), in strengthening their efforts to address the global problem of trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants, particularly through research and technical cooperation programmes. To respond to the global spread and diversification of the clandestine manufacture and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants, a consultative meeting held in Tokyo in March 1998 discussed and reviewed current methods for the characterization and profiling of methamphetamine and other amphetamine-type stimulants and made recommendations for future work in that area. As a follow-up UNDCP prepared a draft outline for fellowship programmes in drug impurity profiling. A consultative meeting was also held in London in September 1998 to review methods for the identification and analysis of amphetamine-type stimulants and their analogues in seized material. Another initiative is to assist Governments in the region of South-East Asia in countering the illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors. The World Health Organization (WHO) has agreed to undertake research on the health effects of such stimulants, particularly methylenedioxymethamphetamine (commonly known as Ecstasy).

20. UNDCP, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO, the regional office of WHO for the Americas) and INCB jointly organized a meeting, held in Santiago from 21 to 23 July 1998, on the consumption of amphetamine-type stimulants used as anorectics in Latin America. The meeting addressed the issue of the high consumption of stimulants as anorectics in countries in the southern cone of Latin America, their abuse, the emergence of an illicit market and the effectiveness of measures adopted by Governments.

VIII. Control of precursors

21. Measures to prevent the illicit manufacture, import, export, trafficking, distribution and diversion of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, presented in General Assembly resolution S-20/4 B, will facilitate the implementation of article 12 (regarding precursors) of the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic. The measures extend the provisions of that article. Since INCB presents each year a report to the Commission on the implementation of article 12 of the 1988 Convention, the Commission will in future consider the implementation of the measures on precursors under the same agenda item under which it considers the implementation of article 12. This would avoid duplication and facilitate reporting by Governments.

22. UNDCP worked in close consultation with INCB on precursor control projects in South-East Asia and in Central, South and South-West Asia, to help set up control and

cooperation mechanisms at the regional level. In this regard, UNDCP and INCB jointly organized the Precursor Control Legislative Awareness Regional Conference, held in Colombo in July 1998, as part of the UNDCP regional project on precursor control for South and South-West Asia. The meeting raised awareness of precursors and promoted the updating and harmonization of related laws and regulations. UNDCP technical assistance programmes in the field of precursor control have increased the knowledge available to the Board on the latest trends in the trafficking of precursors chemicals.

IX. Countering money-laundering

23. In the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session in resolution S-20/2, Governments committed themselves to adopting, by the year 2003, national money-laundering legislation and programmes in accordance with the relevant provisions of the 1988 Convention, as well as the measures for countering money-laundering adopted in resolution S-20/4 D. On the occasion of the special session, a study entitled "Financial heavens, banking secrecy and money-laundering", providing a comprehensive analysis of the problems caused by the laundering of criminal proceeds in the offshore financial sector, was published by UNDCP. As a follow-up, the Offshore Initiative, a United Nations global initiative to prevent the misuse of the offshore financial sector for the laundering of criminal proceeds, was launched. Its wider objectives are to prevent the laundering of criminal proceeds through financial channels, to improve transparency in international financial transactions and to stimulate international cooperation in criminal matters involving offshore financial centres.

24. Special efforts were undertaken to assist States in improving the efficiency of financial investigations. A training manual for financial investigators was prepared, and a programme of cooperation in setting up financial investigation services was initiated with Barbados and Jamaica. A global inventory of ongoing technical cooperation in anti-money-laundering activities was established, following coordination meetings held at Vienna in September 1998. The inventory will make it possible to form a better picture of potential overlapping, gaps and loopholes in the provision of technical assistance to counter money-laundering.

25. In 1998, awareness-raising and training workshops were held in New Delhi, for South Asian States, and in Buenos Aires and La Paz, for States members of the Common Market of the Southern Cone (MERCOSUR). Missions were carried out in the Cayman Islands, Colombia, Guatemala and Panama. In cooperation with the UNDCP legal advisory programme, money-laundering issues were covered in training workshops for justice officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Senegal and Slovakia. Support was provided to the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering in the organization of a workshop on money-laundering for States of that region.

26. UNDCP is offering States that have not yet adopted the required legislative provisions and implementation measures assistance through the global programme against money-laundering of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention. A series of regional legal drafting workshops will be organized with the objective of providing guidance on the elaboration of legislation against money-laundering and the harmonization of provisions of such legislation. Assistance is also provided through the training of banking, law enforcement and judicial authorities to enhance the capacity of States effectively to implement domestic legislation against money-laundering.

X. Mobilization of the Commission to fulfil its mandates

27. In paragraph 20 of the Political Declaration adopted at its twentieth special session,[2] the General Assembly called upon all States to report biennially to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on their efforts to meet the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008 agreed at the twentieth special session and requested the Commission to analyse those reports in order to enhance the cooperative effort to combat the world drug problem.

28. In resolution 53/115, the General Assembly requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and UNDCP to elaborate guidelines in order to facilitate reporting by Governments on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action adopted by the Assembly at its seventeenth special session[4] and on progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008, as set out in the Political Declaration. The objective was to have an efficient collection of reliable data, increase the number of Governments that reported updated information on a regular basis, improve the quality of their responses, and avoid duplication of activities.

29. For its consideration of this issue at its forty-second session in March 1999, the Commission had before it two notes by the Secretariat, entitled "Guidelines for reporting

on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and on the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly" (E/CN.7/1999/2) and "Implementation of the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session" (E/CN.7/1999/4). The Commission noted the broad overlap between the provisions of the Global Programme of Action and the Action Plans and measures adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session. In order to rationalize the reporting requirements on the part of both Governments and the Secretariat and avoid duplication, the Commission decided that, in future, the annual report of the Secretary-General on activities undertaken by UNDCP and Governments relating to the Global Programme of Action should be integrated with the report on progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008, as set out in the Political Declaration. The Commission, pursuant to its resolution 42/4, decided to establish an inter-sessional working group, within available resources, open to all States, to elaborate guidelines in order to facilitate reporting by Governments on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and on progress made in meeting the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008, as set out in the Political Declaration. The inter-sessional working group met from 1 to 3 June and is expected to hold a second meeting in October 1999 and to submit unified draft guidelines for consideration and adoption by the Commission at its reconvened forty-second session in December 1999.

30. UNDCP, in its capacity as secretariat to the Commission, will continue to play an active role in the implementation of the strategy adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, providing support to Governments through a portfolio of technical assistance in attaining the agreed goals within the given time-frames.

Notes

[1] See E/1999/28–E/CN.7/1999/15, chap. I (to be issued subsequently as *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 8*).

[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Special Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/S-20/14), sect. III, resolution S-20/2, annex.

[3] Ibid., resolution S-20/3, annex.

[4] See resolution S-17/2, annex.

[5] See *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November–20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).